

May 24, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Reid:

On behalf of Families USA, the national organization for health care consumers, we enthusiastically endorse H.R. 4213 "The American Jobs, Closing Tax Loopholes and Preventing Outsourcing Act." This legislation will benefit and protect Americans and their families who are struggling during tough economic times.

The bill provides a six-month extension of an increase in federal Medicaid funding to help ensure states can continue to meet the healthcare needs of their low-income citizens and families. The FMAP extension sustains the match given to states through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and provides further relief through June 30, 2011. This extended fiscal relief will prevent state policymakers from enacting devastating Medicaid cuts, including cuts to benefits packages and provider payment rates, and increases in cost sharing.

Your legislation will protect health coverage for jobless Americans by extending COBRA subsidies through the end of this year. When Americans are laid off from work, the last thing they can afford to lose is their health coverage. Extending COBRA subsidies will give Americans the health security they need and deserve as they look for new employment opportunities.

In addition, the bill will help seniors and people with disabilities who rely on Medicare maintain access to their doctors.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to this issue, on behalf of American families. We urge you to swiftly pass this legislation.

Sincerely,



Ronald F. Pollack
Executive Director